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City Document. — No. 105.

CITY OF BOSTON.



REPORT

ON

PLANS AND ESTIMATES

FOR A

NEW HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

1867.

MAY 4 1962

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Board of Aldermen, November 1st, 1867.

The Joint Standing Committee on Public Institutions, to whom were referred the plans and estimates for a new Hospital for the Insane, at Winthrop, and also an order of the City Council, approved October 25, requesting additional estimates, having carefully considered the same, beg leave to submit the following

REPORT:

Under an order of the City Council, passed in 1865, the Board of Directors of Public Institutions advertised for a period of sixty days, for a suitable site for a new Hospital for the Insane. More than one hundred propositions were received. After carefully examining them, and rejecting such as they deemed unsuitable, the number was reduced to twenty. These they visited — some of them two and three times, — and it finally became evident that the selection would be from one of three localities: the Codman estate, in Dorchester, Parker's Hill, in Roxbury, and the Winthrop Farm; the latter place having accidentally been brought to their notice. The Directors and Superintendent were of the opinion that the last-named place possessed advantages unequalled by any other; and they found that, while it could be bought for the moderate sum of \$25,000, and Sales' Hill for \$3,000, making in the total one hundred and eighty acres for \$28,000 — sufficient land at either of the other places could not be obtained for less than one half the cost of a suitable hospital structure. To make assurance doubly sure, they invited the late Dr. Stedman, (formerly Superintendent of the Boston Hospital,) and Dr. Tyler, of the McLean Asylum,

to visit these localities and give them the benefit of their experienced judgment. They did so, and decided enthusiastically in favor of Winthrop. Subsequently, Dr. Choate,* of Taunton, and Dr. Ray, of the Butler Hospital, Rhode Island, visited the Farm, and approved the selection,—Dr. Ray remarking that it left nothing to be desired. The members of the City Council then visited the site, and afterwards ordered its purchase by a unanimous vote of both branches. The Committee are thus particular because the question has been asked, by some of the new members of the present government, if some other site in Roxbury would not be more advantageous.

By the foregoing statement it appears, that the City Council have virtually decided the question of erecting a hospital for the insane at Winthrop; and the Committee, in their judgment, are not required, therefore, to consider anything more than the plans and estimates recommended by the Board of Directors, and furnish the additional estimates called for under the order of the City Council.

The plans for the new building (a particular description of which will be found in City Document No. 94, 1867,) are drawn to furnish accommodations for three hundred patients. The number now in the institution at South Boston is 170—of whom 131 are City charges, and 39 boarders. Of the latter, 15 may be considered as City charges. The prices paid for board are as follows: 1 at \$1.50 per week, 3 at \$3.00, 2 at \$3.50, 1 at \$4.00, 1 at \$5.00, 5 at \$5.50, 24 at \$7.00, 1 at \$8.00, and 1 at \$10.00. The average expenditure for each patient in the hospital last year was \$5.20 per week; the actual cost, after deducting income, was \$3.46 per week.

The hospital at South Boston was opened in 1839, and enlarged in 1846. It was originally intended to furnish accommodations for 100 patients. The necessity for additional room was

* A note from Dr. Choate, in regard to his recent observations in Europe, is printed in the appendix.

felt as long ago as 1853, when the Mayor, in his annual address, called the attention of the City Council to the matter. Now, in view of the natural increase in population, the actual annexation of Roxbury, and the probable annexation of other places, the Committee are decidedly of the opinion, that, in erecting a new institution for the insane, accommodations should be afforded for at least three hundred patients.

The plans and estimates have been examined in detail by the committee, with the aid of Dr. Walker and the architect. Dr. Walker and the members of the Board of Directors who visited, last year, the principal asylums for the insane in this country, give their unqualified approval to the design drawn by Mr. Bradlee; and the committee, after a careful examination, have not been able to suggest any improvements.

The estimates have been made with great care; and we are informed by the architect that, since they were submitted, the prices of labor and materials have been reduced about ten per cent.

The additional estimates called for under the order of the City Council are given in a note from N. J. Bradlee, Esq., which is appended to this report. The estimates for furniture will be found in a communication from Dr. Walker, which is also appended.

As much has been said on the expediency of receiving boarders in a City institution, we think it advisable, for the information of the present City Council, to give an extract from the Directors' Report, dated October 28, 1863, contained in City Document No. 91, of the year 1863:

"As the cost of food and medicine is the only additional expense of boarders, it is pecuniarily an object to receive them, to say nothing of the beneficial effect upon the other inmates, the boarders being usually of a better class of patients. According to the Auditor's Annual Report, the income from boarders last year was 35.68 per cent of the cost of supporting the institution. The additional expense incurred on their account was only 10.29 per cent of the cost.

With enlarged and suitable accommodations, a greater number of our citizens would avail themselves of the advantages of their own institution, and many boarders at high prices might be received. As it is, refusals are of frequent recurrence. Only yesterday, one, who would gladly have paid liberally, was compelled to turn away, there being no vacant single room suitable for the case. With a proper Hospital, the wants of the community, and the cause of humanity, might be served, and a large part of its cost of support be defrayed without calling upon the City Treasury.

These facts and figures, in relation to paying patients, are given to show the propriety and importance of receiving boarders. A person not fully conversant with the subject, might think that a Hospital for the pauper insane was sufficient for the city. To such an idea, there are opposed very important considerations. The authorities have no right to discriminate between tax-paying citizens, and furnish advantages for one class that are denied to another. They have no right to provide a hospital for the pauper, and virtually say to the wealthy man, whose taxes contributed to build the Hospital and aid in its yearly support, that when he is afflicted he must go from home, and seek relief at Somerville, or in one of the State Institutions at Worcester or Taunton. The man of property has the right to avail himself of the benefits of a City Hospital, and cannot be refused admission if he demands to be received. The only difference between him and the pauper in this, is, that nothing can be got from the one, while the other can be made to pay for the care bestowed upon him. If a City Institution for the insane is to be maintained at all, it should be one ample in its conveniences to accommodate all who are so unfortunate as to find it necessary to seek treatment in such an asylum.

To compel respectable residents of small means, like the husband who pays \$1.50 per week, or the twenty-nine others who pay \$3 per week, to make paupers of their suffering friends,

before they can have the benefit of a City Hospital, would be a hardship unworthy of a liberal and enlightened community. Yet if ours was a pauper institution only, such would be the effect in many cases. Some would be unable to pay the sum demanded elsewhere, while others would object to having the patients at a distance, where they could not see them, or hear from them, except at long intervals. Their only alternative would be to throw them upon the city. Instead of boarders we should have the same patients as paupers, and the Treasury would lose a considerable income. Worse than all, many respectable families would feel mortified and disgraced, by the unpleasant position in which they would be placed, by being compelled to receive as public charity, that for which they would prefer to pay.

To establish a Hospital exclusively for paupers, would be also ungenerous and unkind toward those compelled to be inmates. The patients who are now in the Hospital as public charges, though unable to provide for their own support, are not criminals. Some of them are highly cultivated persons, and many are from good families who once enjoyed the luxuries of life. Misfortune has overtaken them, without any fault on their part. They have not lost their self-respect, and we should be careful, not to allow anything that would have a tendency to crush it out, but rather to do everything possible to encourage and sustain it. Self-respect and hope gone, the condition of the poor lunatic is most deplorable. Whilst these remain there is hope for restoration.

Lunatic Hospitals are not what they formerly were, merely places of detention for safe-keeping. They are, as their name indicates, curative establishments where many regain their reason, many are improved, and all rendered comparatively comfortable. To be in the highest degree effective, they should have the necessary appliances of abundant house room, ample grounds, cheerful prospect, and generally home-like comfort. These are all

important. The success of a Medical Superintendent in the treatment of insanity depends greatly upon these advantages. His pharmacopœia is not of drugs, but of the quiet of gentle nature. He thus secures rest for the troubled mind, while with patience he skilfully aids the sufferer from step to step to regain self-control. With conveniences as suggested, many would be saved that are often lost."

The Committee also desire to call the particular attention of the City Council to the memorial from the Board of Directors, dated Jan. 9, 1863, copies of which have been furnished to the members.

It should be understood that considerable time will elapse in the construction of this institution, and that the expenditures will be gradual, extending over a period of three or four financial years.

Boston should not be behind other cities in founding a suitable and commodious building for the insane. Her character for liberality and humanity should not be compromised by any narrow ideas of economy on a subject like this. We trust a unanimous response will be given by the City Council in approval of the accompanying order.

GEORGE W. MESSINGER.

JONAS FITCH.

CHAS. R. McLEAN.

INCREASE E. NOYES.

HOWARD A. DOE.

DENNIS CAWLEY, JR.

F. A. WILKINS.

WM. WOOLLEY.

ORDERED: That the plans and estimates for a new Hospital for the insane, prepared by Nathaniel J. Bradlee, and submitted to the City Council by the Board of Directors of Public Institutions, in a communication dated Oct. 4, 1867, be, and the same are hereby, approved.

APPENDIX.

ESTIMATES FOR GRADING, ETC.

BOSTON, Oct. 26, 1867.

HON. GEORGE W. MESSINGER, —

Chairman of the Committee on Public Institutions:

I herewith submit my reply to the several questions proposed by your Committee, namely: the estimated cost of grading and fencing the grounds to be occupied by the proposed new Lunatic Hospital at Winthrop; also the expense of retorts and other apparatus, for the manufacture of gas; the cost of wharf and roads, and the amount to be expended for water.

First — “Grading.” I have estimated the expense of grading from levels and quantities calculated by the City Engineer, at twenty-nine thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$29,950).

Second — “Fencing.” It has never been proposed to fence every part of the boundary line, but to erect fences only to the airing grounds, the cost of which is included in the estimates submitted. If a fence should be hereafter erected on the boundary line, it will undoubtedly be constructed from the stone on the premises, by the patients in the Hospital.

Third — “Expense of Gas Apparatus.” The expense of this, is already included in the estimates submitted, as will be seen on page 15.

Fourth — “Wharf.” The estimated cost of a suitable wharf and lot, is fifteen thousand dollars.

Fifth — “Roads.” The necessary roads are included in the item of grading.

Sixth — “The amount to be expended for water.” It is proposed to obtain the supply of water from wells, at an expense of fifteen hundred dollars. At some future time, when the Cochituate water pipes are extended to the boundary line of East Boston, it may be desirable to convey the water to the Hospital, and save the expense of pumping.

If there is any other item which requires explanation, I should be happy to furnish it.

Respectfully yours,

N. J. BRADLEE.

ESTIMATES FOR FURNISHING.

BOSTON LUNATIC HOSPITAL, }
 BOSTON, Oct. 31, 1867. }

J. PUTNAM BRADLEE, ESQ., PRESIDENT, ETC.:

Dear Sir. — Agreeably to your request, I have spent the better part of the last four days in preparing a reliable estimate of the cost of furnishing the proposed new Hospital for the Insane.

It is, of course, based upon the present prices, and is made quite liberal, on even that basis, to insure a sufficient margin.

As you are aware, there is a considerable quantity of furniture, bedding, crockery, etc., now in use here, that will do well enough for the new hospital. The estimate is made therefore, to cover the deficiency, but it is made for the full number of *three hundred*, while, without doubt, we need to provide for only two hundred and twenty-five, at most, at the outset.

I need not assure you that unusual care has been taken to make it certain that the actual expenditure shall fall materially within the estimate. If I have erred at all, it is in estimating too liberally. I have tried to get the best advice possible. In the matter of furniture and bedding, I have consulted Mr. Joseph Buckley, of the old and well-known firm of Buckley & Bancroft.

ESTIMATES.

50 Bedsteads for excited patients . . .	\$20 00	\$1,000 00
150 Bedsteads for other patients . . .	10 00	1,500 00
125 Hair mattresses (ticking) . . .	20 00	2,500 00
125 Husk mattresses (burlaps) . . .	5 00	625 00
125 Hair pillows	1 75	219 00
125 Rattan pillows	1 00	125 00
50 Feather pillows	3 50	175 00
400 Pairs sheets	4 00	1,600 00
400 Pairs pillow-cases	50	200 00
200 Bed-spreads	2 50	500 00
<i>Carried forward</i>		<hr/> \$8,444 00

<i>Brought forward</i>		\$8,444 00
200 Pairs blankets	5 00	1,000 00
200 Curtains	50	100 00
400 Shattuck chairs	1 12	450 00
120 Bureaus	10 00	1,200 00
120 Work-stands	3 00	360 00
100 Wash-stands	3 00	300 00
100 Rocking chairs	1 25	125 00
24 Small dining tables	12 00	288 00
60 " " "	10 00	600 00
150 Looking-glasses	1 00	100 00
Knife-boxes, tray-baskets, etc.		100 00

Corridor Parlors.

2 Sofas	\$65 00	\$130 00
6 Small chairs	7 00	42 00
2 Large chairs	25 00	50 00
1 Centre-table		22 00
1 Card table		9 00
1 Whatnot		15 00
		<hr/>
		\$268 00

6 of them - 1,608 00

Same.

2 Settees	\$10 00	\$20 00
6 chairs	1 25	7 50
4 Rockers	1 75	7 00
1 Table		20 00
		<hr/>
		\$54 50

6 of them 327 00

Bay Windows.

6 at \$60	\$360 00	
6 at 40	240 00	
	<hr/>	600 00

Excited Wards.

136 Foot seats at 75c per foot 300 00

Carried forward \$15,902 00

<i>Brought forward</i>		\$15,902 00
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Chapel.

40 Hubbard settees (8 foot), imitation rosewood, at \$10		400 00
Desk, Platform and Sofa		125 00

Superintendent's Dining-room.

Tables	\$80 00	
Sideboard	100 00	
36 Chairs (Hey- wood's), at \$5	180 00	360 00

Superintendent's Parlor.

Furniture and fixtures	\$1,300 00	
Sitting-room	600 00	
Library	200 00	
Chamber	250 00	
		<hr/> 2,350 00

Assistant's Sitting and Bed-room.

Furniture and fixtures		400 00
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Offices.

General office (assistants') . .	\$132 00	
Waiting-room	105 00	
Superintendent's private office .	260 00	
		<hr/> 497 00

Lighting.

2 Heavy 6 lt. Parlor Chandeliers,	\$65 00	\$130 00
1 " " " " "	50 00	50 00
1 Library Centre lt. Exten. Chan- delier	50 00	50 00
3 Chamber Chandeliers	20 00	60 00
2 Dining Room Chandeliers . .	60 00	120 00
3 Chapel Chandeliers	75 00	225 00

<i>Carried forward</i>	\$635 00	<hr/> \$20,034 00
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NEW HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

<i>Brought forward</i>		\$635 00	\$20,034
6 Corridor Parlor Candeliers, \$25 00	150 00		
6 Store Pendants	9 00	say 60 00	
4 Office Pendants	20 00	80 00	
60 2 lt. Strong Pendants	4 00	240 00	
		<hr/>	1,165 00

Window Shades.

200 Shades	4 00	800 00
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Crockery.

Crockery, of all kinds,	1,600 00
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Table Furniture.

Cutlery, Plate ware, etc., etc.	800 00
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Carpeting.

Brussels and pestry	\$3 25	\$3,250 00	
3 Ply	2 00	6,000 00	
Oil Cloth	2 50	2,500 00	
Cocoa Mattin	1 50	1,500 00	
		<hr/>	\$13,250 00

Miscellaneous.

2 Billiard Tab	\$450 00	\$900 00	
2 Pianos	350 00	700 00	
Paper Hang		1,000 00	
Engravings		600 00	
		<hr/>	3,200 00

\$40,849 00

For orders and contingencies

4,000 00

\$44,849 00

Respectfully submitted.

CLEMENT A. WALKER, S

TAUNTON LUNATIC HOSPITAL, }
 TAUNTON, MASS. Oct. 22, 1867. }

DR. C. A. WALKER:

Dear Sir, — In reply to your request that I would state what I may have observed in a recent visit to Europe, regarding the character and cost of foreign hospital buildings, compared with our own, I would say, that during the past summer I have visited a large number of institutions in Europe, and particularly the County Asylums of England. These are deemed exclusively for the *poor*; no others are admitted. To my surprise, I found them superior in the character and cost of the buildings, and the completeness of provision generally, to our State institutions. This is especially true of the hospitals of recent construction. The buildings are more perfect and substantial, the rooms and halls larger and higher, the departments devoted to recreation more elegant and costly, the floors and finish more durable and expensive. Their actual cost I do not know; but if built here, they would cost more than ours. \$6,000*l.* is being spent upon the Kent County Asylum at this time, simply for enlargement.

Our State Hospital at Northampton cost ten years ago \$300,000, and would now cost \$450,000, or more. It is not equal to the County Asylums of England.

In my opinion, it would be impossible for less sum than the estimate of the architect for the Boston Hospital, to erect a building embodying the best ideas of the present time; and anything short of that would neither be satisfactory nor economical, nor creditable to a great city.

Truly yours,

GEO. W. CHOATE.

